United Nations

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world"

General Assembly
Official Records
Twenty-fourth Special Session
Supplement No. 2 (A/S-24/2)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly decided to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and to consider further actions and initiatives. In its resolution 51/202 of 17 December 1996, the Assembly decided on the organization of the preparatory process of the special session.

2. In its resolution 52/25 of 26 November 1997, the General Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee to consider and decide on the process to be followed to achieve the purpose of the special session.

3. The report of the Preparatory Committee on its organizational session is contained in document A/53/45,[1] the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session is contained in document A/54/45 and Corr.1[2] and the report of the Preparatory Committee on its resumed first session is contained in document A/54/45/Add.1.[3]

4. In its resolution 53/28 of 19 November 1998, the General Assembly decided that the special session would be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000.

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

5. The Preparatory Committee held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 14 April 2000. The Preparatory Committee held 5 meetings (1st to 5th) and a number of informal meetings.

6. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Cristian Maquieira (Chile).

B. Attendance

7. The following States were represented: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

8. Palestine, an entity maintaining a permanent observer mission at Headquarters, was also represented.

9. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Economic Commission for Africa and Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS).

10. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

11. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Commonwealth of Independent States, Council of Europe, European Community, International

Organization of la Francophonie, League of Arab States, Organization of African Unity, Organization of the Islamic Conference and Organization of American States.

12. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, entities invited to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, were also represented by observers.

13. In accordance with decision 7 of the Preparatory Committee,[4] adopted at its organizational session in May 1998, a number of non-governmental organizations also attended the session.

C. Officers

14. The officers of the Preparatory Committee, elected at its organizational session in 1998, remained:

Chairman:
Cristian Maquieira (Chile)

Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities:
Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairmen:
Abdallah Baali (Algeria)
Ion Gorita (Romania)
Koos Richelle (Netherlands)

15. Zola Skweyiya (South Africa), Chairman of the Commission for Social Development, replaced Aurelio Fernandez (Spain), former Chairman of the Commission, as ex officio member of the Bureau.

D. Agenda and organization of work

16. At its 1st meeting, on 3 April, the Preparatory Committee adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document A/AC.253/12, and approved its organization of work (A/AC.253/L.14/Rev.1). The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Status of preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world":

   (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session of the General Assembly;

   (b) Consideration of the draft final document of the special session;

   (c) Consideration of any other proposals to be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session;

   (d) Other matters.

3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session.

E. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

17. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 April, the Preparatory Committee, pursuant to decision 7 adopted at its organizational session, accredited the non-governmental organizations listed in the annex to document A/AC.253/26 for participation in the preparatory process.

F. Documentation

18. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.253/12);

(b) Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/13-E/CN.5/2000/2);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the symposium on States, markets and social progress: roles and cooperation of the public and private sectors, held in Beijing from 11 to 13 October 1999 (A/AC.253/14-E/CN.5/2000/5);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional symposium on socio-economic policies during macroeconomic stabilization in countries with economies in transition, held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 9 to 11 November 1999 (A/AC.253/15);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General circulating review reports and proposals for further action and

initiatives submitted by organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations (A/AC.253/16 and Add.1-17);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the right of self-determination (A/AC.253/17);

(g) Letter dated 11 February 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" (A/AC.253/18);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly (A/AC.253/19);

(i) Note by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the special session of the General Assembly (A/AC.253/20);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector (A/AC.253/21);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on the acceleration of development in Africa and the least developed countries (A/AC.253/22);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration in post-conflict situations (A/AC.253/23);

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the seminar on values and market economies, Paris, 19-21 January 2000 (A/AC.253/24);

(n) Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of globalization on social development (A/AC.253/25);

(o) Note by the Secretariat on the participation of non-governmental organizations (A/AC.253/26);

(p) Report of the Secretary-General on assessing the social impact of economic measures taken in response to financial crises in developing countries (A/AC.253/27);

(q) Report of the Secretary-General on the resources for social development: additional and innovative measures (A/AC.253/28);

(r) Proposed outcome: revised text submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.253/L.5/Rev.2 (Parts I-III));

(s) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed organization of work (A/AC.253/L.14/Rev.1);

(t) Draft decisions submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Koos Richelle (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations, entitled "Organizational arrangements for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" and "Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/AC.253/L.15 and A/AC.253/L.16);

(u) Draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session (A/AC.253/L.17);

(v) Compilation of the summaries and proposals for further action provided by the United Nations system (A/AC.253/CRP.2).

Chapter III
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world"

19. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 as a whole at its 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 3, 7, 12 and 14 April 2000. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/13-E/CN.5/2000/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the symposium on States, markets and social progress: roles and cooperation of the public and private sectors, held in Beijing from 11 to 13 October 1999 (A/AC.253/14-E/CN.5/2000/5);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional symposium on socio-economic policies during macroeconomic stabilization in countries with economies in transition, held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 9 to 11 November 1999 (A/AC.253/15);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General circulating review reports and proposals for further action and initiatives submitted by organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations (A/AC.253/16 and Add.1-17);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the right of self-determination (A/AC.253/17);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector (A/AC.253/21);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the acceleration of development in Africa and the least developed countries (A/AC.253/22);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration in post-conflict situations (A/AC.253/23);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the seminar on values and market economies, Paris, 19-21 January 2000 (A/AC.253/24);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of globalization on social development (A/AC.253/25);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on assessing the social impact of economic measures taken in response to financial crises in developing countries (A/AC.253/27);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the resources for social development: additional and innovative measures (A/AC.253/28);

(m) Compilation of the summaries and proposals for further action provided by the United Nations system (A/AC.253/CRP.2).

20. At the 1st meeting, on 3 April, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement.

21. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee made a statement.

22. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 April, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Instituto del Tercer Mundo (on behalf of the development caucus); Women's Environment and Development Organization (on behalf of the women's caucus); Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; International Council on Social Welfare; International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; Human Rights Internet; and Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood.

23. At the 4th meeting, on 12 April, the representative of Switzerland made a statement.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (also on behalf of Franciscans International and Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)); International Association of Charities; United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries (on behalf of the caucus on the rights of the child); Third World Network (on behalf of the African caucus); World Confederation of Labour; International Chamber of Commerce (also on behalf of the International Organization of Employers); and Citizens Coalition for Economic Justice (on behalf of the caucus on currency, transaction, tax).

Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

Documents relating to agenda item 2

25. At its 5th meeting, on 14 April, the Preparatory Committee took note of a number of documents under agenda item 2 as a whole (see chap. V, sect. B, decision 5).

A. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session of the General Assembly

26. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (a) at its 2nd and 5th meetings, on 4 and 14 April. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 11 February 2000 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" (A/AC.253/18);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly (A/AC.253/19);

(c) Note by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the special session of the General Assembly (A/AC.253/20).

Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

Draft decision A/AC.253/L.15

27. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 April, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Organizational arrangements for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/AC.253/L.15), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Koos Richelle (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations.

28. The Preparatory Committee was informed that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

29. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee recommended the adoption of the draft decision by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session (see chap. V, sect. A, draft decision I).

Draft decision A/AC.253/L.16

30. At its 5th meeting, on 14 April, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/AC.253/L.16), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Koos Richelle (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations.

31. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman orally revised the draft decision by including a title for the substantive item in the agenda.

32. The representative of Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of 77) proposed an amendment to the title.

33. The Preparatory Committee then recommended to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session the adoption of the draft decision, as orally revised and amended (see chap. V, sect. A, draft decision II).

B. Consideration of the draft final document of the special session

34. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (b) at its 1st, 3rd and 5th meetings, on 3, 7 and 14 April. It had before it a revised working draft of the proposed outcome document submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.253/L.5/Rev.2 (Parts I-III)).

35. Pursuant to its organization of work, the Preparatory Committee established three working groups, chaired by members of the Bureau, to consider sub-item 2 (b).

Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

Document A/AC.253/L.5/Rev.2 (Parts I-III)

36. At the 1st meeting, on 3 April, the Chairman of the Commission for Social Development introduced the agreed conclusions on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, which had been adopted by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session and were reproduced in Part II of document A/AC.253/L.5/Rev.2.

37. At the 3rd and 5th meetings, on 7 and 14 April, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Richelle (Netherlands), informed the Preparatory Committee of the results of the

informal consultations that they had chaired on Part III of document A/AC.253/L.5/Rev.2.

38. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Guyana, Spain and Guatemala.

39. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed to hold a one-day resumed session in order to conclude its consideration of the revised outcome document.

Chapter IV
Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session

40. At the 5th meeting, on 14 April 2000, the Chairman introduced the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session (A/AC.253/L.17) on behalf of Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities.

41. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chairman with its completion.

Chapter V
Recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and decision adopted by the Preparatory Committee

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session

42. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" recommends to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Organizational arrangements for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following organizational arrangements for its twenty-fourth special session:

A. Date and duration

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/28 of 19 November 1998, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, from 26 to 30 June 2000.

B. President

2. The twenty-fourth special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

C. Vice-Presidents

3. The Vice-Presidents of the twenty-fourth special session should be the same as those of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

D. Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

4. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404 of 8 October 1999, the Assembly shall establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-Fourth Special Session.

5. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should consist of one Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee should serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Twenty-Fourth Special Session.

E. Credentials Committee

6. The Credentials Committee of the twenty-fourth special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

F. General Committee

7. The General Committee of the twenty-fourth special session should consist of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the special session, the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

G. Rules of procedure

8. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the twenty-fourth special session.

H. Level of representation

9. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, participation in the twenty-fourth special session should be at the highest possible political level.

I. Debate in plenary

10. Statements in the debate in plenary should not exceed seven minutes.

11. The list of speakers for the debate in plenary should be established by a drawing of lots. Heads of State, Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes or Princesses and Heads of Government should be given precedence in the establishment of the list of speakers and in the speaking order and should have equal standing as regards the list of speakers. They should be followed by Ministers/Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Chairmen of Delegation/Vice-Ministers and Chairmen of Delegation.

J. Allocation of items

12. All items of the draft provisional agenda should be allocated to the plenary, and the substantive items should also be allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

K. Participation of speakers other than Member States

13. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, observers may make statements in the debate in plenary.

14. A number of organizations and entities have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

15. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, States members of specialized agencies that are not Members of the United Nations may participate in the twenty-fourth special session in the capacity of observers.

16. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, associate members of the regional commissions may participate in the twenty-fourth special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in the same capacity of observer that applied to their participation in the World Summit for Social Development.

17. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/404, representatives of United Nations programmes and other entities in the United Nations system may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

18. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/407 of 8 October 1999, representatives of non-governmental organizations may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

19. In accordance with General Assembly decision 54/407, given the availability of time, a limited number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also make statements in the debate in the plenary of the twenty-fourth special session.

L. Schedule of plenary meetings

20. Ten plenary meetings will be held over the five-day period, with two meetings per day as follows:

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Draft decision II
Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly adopts the following provisional agenda for its twenty-fourth special session:

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Namibia.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President.

5. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world".

6. Organization of the session.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

8. Proposals for further initiatives for social development:

   (a) Review and appraisal of progress since the World Summit for Social Development;

   (b) Proposals for further initiatives for the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.

9. Adoption of the final document(s).

B. Decision adopted by the Preparatory Committee

43. The following decision, adopted by the Preparatory Committee, is brought to the attention of the General Assembly:

Decision 5
Documents relating to agenda item 2

The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" takes note of the following documents:

(a) Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;[5]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the symposium on States, markets and social progress: roles and cooperation of the public and private sectors, held in Beijing from 11 to 13 October 1999;[6]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional symposium on socio-economic policies during macroeconomic stabilization in countries with economies in transition, held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 9 to 11 November 1999;[7]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General circulating review reports and proposals for further action and initiatives submitted by organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations;[8]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the right of self-determination;[9]

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector;[10]

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the acceleration of development in Africa and the least developed countries;[11]

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration in post-conflict situations;[12]

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the seminar on values and market economies, Paris, 19-21 January 2000;[13]

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of globalization on social development;[14]

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on assessing the social impact of economic measures taken in response to financial crises in developing countries;[15]

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the resources for social development: additional and innovative measures;[16]

(m) Compilation of the summaries and proposals for further action provided by the United Nations system.[17]

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/54/45 and Corr.1).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 45A* (A/54/45/Add.1).

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45), chap. VI, sect. B.

[5] A/AC.253/13-E/CN.5/2000/2.

[6] A/AC.253/14-E/CN.5/2000/5.

[7] A/AC.253/15.

[8] A/AC.253/16 and Add.1-17.

[9] A/AC.253/17.

[10] A/AC.253/21.

[11] A/AC.253/22.

[12] A/AC.253/23.

[13] A/AC.253/24.

[14] A/AC.253/25.

[15] A/AC.253/27.

[16] A/AC.253/28.

[17] A/AC.253/CRP.2.

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